

#38

LadyLike

Exploring & Expressing Femininity

You asked for her –
you got her!

**Foxy
Roxy!**

Photo Feature
**Night Of A
Thousand
Gowns**

Herstory:
Finding Rachael

\$US10 - \$Can15



Flash Back with
Grey Ryder:

**I Was A
Showgirl!**

TVideo Review

**I Changed
My Sex!**

**Letters, Letters,
& Lots of Photos!**

Editorial

Reality Check, Please!

Over the years I have been involved in the TG community I have read a lot of letters from folks out there in Closet Land. Many of the writers tell of their relationships with wives, who are either supportive or tolerant of crossdressing. Often times, a few paragraphs after the writer tells me about her wife she talks about an urge she has developed to go out on a date with a man.

In a lot of these cases, the scenario is a romantic one; at a smoky little bistro their eyes meet, he sends a drink to her, conversation ensues, they hold hands, eventually there's a French kiss — and all the while the writer's spouse is at home reading a Romance novel and wondering when her husband will return from his crossdressing support group meeting. Reality check, please!

Then there's the writer who tells me about a wonderful spouse, and then says she's stealing this wonderful spouse's birth control pills so she can experience the joy and wonder of female hormones. Reality check, please!

Often these are just fantasies that the writers indulge by writing out and sending them to someone, in this case the sympathetic magazine. If that's the case, it's not such a bad thing. But it does get bad when the writer actually starts to change fantasy into reality — without any disclosure to the spouse. If your wife thinks it's okay for you to take hormones and date men, well, you go girl!

Most wives are not so tolerant. Most wives have deep feelings about things like marriage vows, commitment, honesty in the relationship, and stuff like that. If you have a good marriage it's really a good idea to hold on to it. I can say this from a strong position since I am a single crossdresser. I would be willing to give up a few days of dressing, or compromise about how much money is spent on my wardrobe, if I had a loving, supportive spouse to share my life with. A sexy red dress with matching accessories may be really hot, but it will not get you chicken soup when you're sick, rub your back when you're a bundle of knots, or do any of the countless things that a person who loves you will do. That dress will hang in the closet till you're over your flu, and then it will keep reminding you that you have to take it to the cleaners. (A supportive spouse would do that for you.)

The thing I wonder about is, if these writers actually have good a marriage, how can they even consider jeopardizing it? I think most of them are using *LadyLike* as a place they can send their deepest fantasies. That's fine, but the trouble with having hidden fantasies like that is they begin to loom larger and larger in your mind.

The idea of taking the pills or heading out to be picked up by a man will become the background thoughts in your head — replacing the whole idea of what it would be like to wear a dress that used to fill your head constantly. (Maybe some folks just need to replace one fixation with another.)

If you find these thoughts haunting you, you should talk about these urges. The best person to talk to is that supportive wife. If you can't discuss it with your wife you should talk to a gender-savvy therapist. Don't spend years fixated on things you will never do. Through therapy you may be able to find out that these things are really not what you want; they may be just things to obsess about. Your relationship with your spouse may improve if you deal with these hidden urges.

If these writers don't have good marriages, if their praise for their spouse is simply denial and in reality she is not too darn happy about a husband in a dress, then they need to decide what their priorities are. Maybe it's a good idea to become a single crossdresser, i.e., get a divorce. Then you're free to look for a woman who likes crossdressing, or find a man who wants a woman with something extra. (Please, even if you become a single CD, don't take hormones unsupervised. Hormones taken without medical supervision can cause you serious health problems, from cancer to phlebitis.) If that's the path you want to take just be aware that it's a big step. Again, a step that should be discussed with a therapist.

No transgender issue exists in a vacuum. All the parts of your life connect. Leaving your wife so you're free to crossdress is not something to do impulsively, even if your relationship is not the best. Don't be ruled by the inner urge. Haul it out into the light and look it over. Do you really want to date men? If you do then you must deal with the other things that are connected; your wife, your children, your community, sexually transmitted diseases, et al. If you find that the fantasy of dating men is what you really want, disclose that to your spouse and find a way to work it into your romantic life with her. Role play. Acting a part in a fantasy you script with a loving partner willing to play a role is a great way to fill needs in a safe way.

Speaking of fantasy, you've got the whole rest of *LadyLike* to take you on a trip to the land of Femme. Read on, and enjoy.



#38 LadyLike

Exploring & Expressing Femininity

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Cover photo courtesy of Foxy Roxy

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Foxy Roxy



Name: Roxy

Age: 39

Profession: Computer
Draftsman

Ethnicity: Mexican/American

Residence: Native of El Paso,
Texas

Height: 5-5 1/2'

Weight: 135 lbs.

Measurements:

38b, 29, 36

Shoe Size: 9

Hobbies: Music and
building showcars for
regional car shows
with my macho

carclub buddies who
don't know about

Roxy. I also enjoy
playing softball
and snow-skiing.

Favorite Things:

Perfume - Loren
(reminds me of an
old girlfriend!), then
Giorgio

Favorite lingerie:

FOH & Victoria's
Secret - sexy teddys
& short sheer

nighties, and of
course garter belts
and stockings, (which
I purchase downtown,
instead of at the mall).

Foxy Roxy Tells All!

LL: We're sure that our readers looking at your pictures are asking themselves how you do it. What's your transformation secret?

R: I don't take hormones, pills or silicone injections. Everything you see is the result of 3 hours of work, beginning with shaving a week's worth of heavy, body hair growth. I don't mind though, I enjoy transforming myself and find it challenging to see how better/sexy I can make myself look each time.

LL: Well, the results are certainly worth the effort. How do you handle being a weekend woman? Do your friends, co-workers or family know about your weekend activity?

R: No one at work knows about this. As a matter of fact, co-workers set me up on dates with their sisters or wife's friends. Though I've always enjoyed women it's difficult because sooner or later we will become intimate and I will have to explain why I keep shaving my body, or why I have women's clothes in my closet at home. I have no qualms about this kind of disclosure if the girl is someone I have met on my own, someone who doesn't know my buddies, family or co-workers.

LL: From that I take it that you keep your Roxy side hidden from most of the people in your male life. Did you ever try to tell your family, or were you ever caught?

R: When I was 21, I had assembled a large collection of crossdressing related stuff. It got so big that I was running out of hiding places. I removed the back cover of our family

stereo and opened the speakers so I could hide my clothes and transvestite magazines there (back then Sulka was on all the covers). Well, one day while I was at

work my parents were 'spring-cleaning.' They were rearranging the furniture and wondered why the stereo and its speakers were so heavy! They removed the back cover, opened the speakers and discovered my stash. I hate to even think about it to this day, what their initial thought was. When I came home, the atmosphere was somber, gloomy and dismal. My parents took me aside, confronted me with the evidence and asked me what was going on. It was the darkest day of my life. They insisted I throw everything away and start calling up girls.

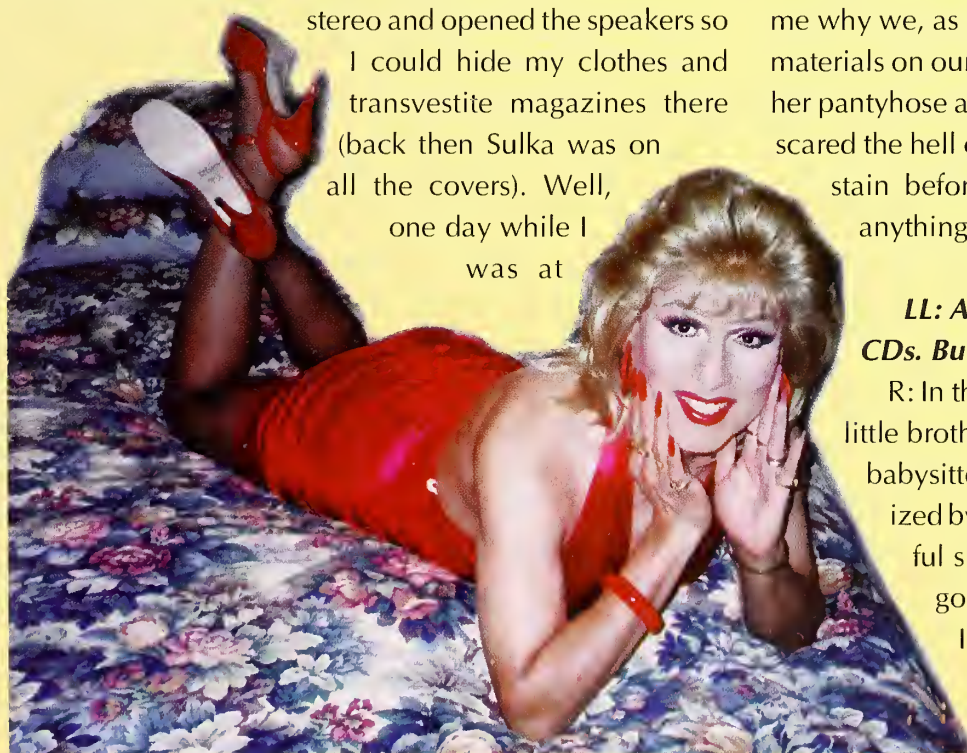
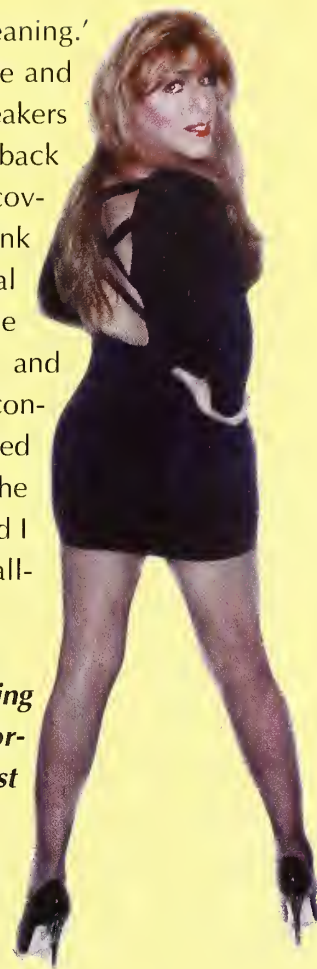
LL: We'll get back to your dating record later. Let's talk about the formative years. What is your earliest crossdressing memory?

R: My earliest recollection is when I was 3 or 4 years old, playing alone in our apartment with my mother's shoes while she did housework and dad was at work. She was 22 years old. I remember the shoe leather had a certain distinct pleasurable odor. At any rate, when I was in grade school I would lock myself in the bathroom and investigate my mom's girdles and stockings from the hamper, eventually putting them on. It intrigued me why we, as men, were not allowed to wear such silky materials on our bodies. About the 5th grade, I discovered her pantyhose and had my first orgasm while wearing it. It scared the hell outta me, scrambling, trying to remove the stain before she found out. She never mentioned anything to me though.

LL: Ah, a fond memory that's shared by many CDs. But, let's move on to the Seventies.

R: In the 'Disco days' I was in middle school, my little brother was born and my parents had to hire a babysitter who lived with us. I recall being mesmerized by the extravagant platform shoes our youthful sitters would wear, when they got ready to got out on weekends. When they were gone I would sneak into their clothes and admire their shoes. But, around this time I discov-

continued





ered girls at school and soon forgot all about putting on their clothes.

LL: How did you do with the ladies early on?

R: I had a few girlfriends, but we were still adolescents. In high school, my looks no longer attracted girls and while all my buddies grew tall and popular I stayed short and grew shy around girls. I wondered at night why my body just decided to stop growing. At any rate, with my hormones now raging, I often wished I had a girlfriend like the sexy girls in class. I would watch my buddies enjoy kissing and feeling the girls they went out with. On weekends we would go out to parties and I would try to ask girls to dance but always got rejected.

LL: What age were you then?

R: I was all of 17 around this time, and got a job as a grease-monkey at a local auto center. I would give part of my paycheck to my parents and with the other part I began to buy women's clothes so I could at least know what it felt like to feel a girl. I discovered that by putting their clothes on myself I could finally realize my wish of knowing what a girl felt like — and there were no rejections! I was in heaven now, going out to the flea-markets and purchasing shoes and wigs.

LL: You were collecting a lot of flea market stuff. What was your first retail store purchase?

R: At about 19, I mustered the courage to walk into the local Frederick's of Hollywood and purchase fuschia Spandex pants and a sequin tube top. On my days off from work, and when my parents were at work, I would put these things on, apply my mom's makeup and admire myself in the mirror. It wasn't long before it brought forth a much needed release, if you know what I mean. I always felt bad after, though, like I had sinned or something, you know?

LL: Believe me, we know. But then, we were all taught that anything about sex was "dirty" and masturbation would make you go blind. You told us how your family thought you could just toss everything out and be cured by calling up girls and dating. How did that work out?

R: I was at a total loss when they told me that because I didn't know the first thing to say to a girl! Surely, I was gonna bomb. I put bag fulls of shoes, wigs, under things and magazines in the trunk of my car and drove aimlessly looking for a dumpster. While driving around I thought to myself what a shame to simply throw so much accumulated stuff away. I decided to rent a storage unit instead.

A few weeks later, as if my parent's prayers were answered, I met a wonderful gal who happened to be a co-worker's sister, from the auto center. She was my age and invited me to her graduation from trade school. She was sexy, wore nice makeup, high heels and sported blonde hair — everything I always wished for in a girl! I even gave away my stuff to the storage unit owner!

I fell in love and soon discovered that I could focus my fetish on my girlfriend. I would buy her all the things that I used to love to wear. For her birthday, Christmas or Valentines Day her family already knew she was gonna receive shoes or dresses from me. I would make her wear all this stuff, and more, whenever we went out to a motel room for intimacy. It was wonderful for the next 5 years! As time went by, she helped instill confidence in me. Soon I began to talk to other girls and often cheated on her, I'm sad to say. The last couple of years of our 7-year relationship I realized she was not the gal for me and we were having many fights. We broke up for good when I was 28, and the urge to dress up came back, though I sported a full beard.

LL: That usually takes a lot of beard cover. Tell us how you lost the beard and started dressing again.

R: One night I hesitantly went down to the local gay bar to see a drag show. I was impressed with one particular queen who eventually became my mentor. She was also straight, like me. I confided in her and she convinced me not to fight the feeling. So the following Halloween I shaved my beard off, rented a motel room, dressed and then drove down to see her perform. For the next 5 years, we dressed together at her apartment and would drive down to the gay bars on weekends, not because we were gay, but because we knew would be accepted there. We parted ways 5 years ago and I had to start renting motel rooms again which got expensive. Two years ago I finally bought my own house and it was a good thing too, because my collection was getting out of control again. My parents probably had suspected I had begun dressing again, but by now they were at that age where they didn't want to fight anymore.

LL: What's a typical night out for now for Roxy?

R: I seldom go into gay bars anymore. I love to venture into a few local straight bars to see how far I can take Roxy. Amazingly, I have found acceptance, but I don't know why. I stay alert and conduct myself in a ladylike manner. As a Latina, I love to dance and get up and boogie with the many generic girls I have met at these bars and maybe even with a curious man or two.





LL: *I'm sure that the "curious" men are not even thinking you could possibly be anything but a hot woman. Being in your Roxy role and being treated like a desirable lady are you ever tempted to be with a man?*

R: Eventually I reached that crossroad where I decided to try sex with a man. Many years ago, my mentor foretold that. The scary part is; I tried it and I liked it. As a guy, I don't find men attractive, but as Roxy I do! As a guy, I still date girls now and then, but, on weekends, Roxy is attracted to men, attractive queens and generic girls! What gives?

LL: *The sexual things our parents tried to shield us from are a lot more complicated than they ever thought. When you develop another personality that happens to be a sexy lady it makes sense to expect her needs and desires to develop as she develops. Whatever you do with any of your lovers I hope you are practicing safer sex methods.*

To wrap up, what is the one thing about your life that you'd like to comment on before we go?

R: I think the real challenge comes in being able to live by day as a man and by night be able to transform yourself into a convincing looking female. It's easy for those who live like girls 24/7, but a hell of a lot harder for those of us who don't want to be perceived as gay by day.

SEE MORE PHOTOS OF ROXY ON PAGE 28!





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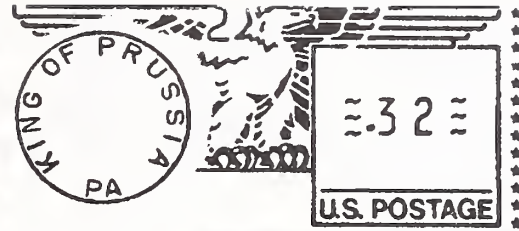
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Letters



Grateful To Contributors

How wonderful it was to receive another issue of *LadyLike*. As I have told you many times before, I anxiously await each issue. Each is packed with tasteful information and visual feasts for the transgendered community. I anxiously devour each article and read the magazine cover to cover.

I can hardly believe how many beautiful ladies are featured in each issue. I'm grateful for each contributor and person who has the courage to show her face in your magazine. I know that we all need to pull together and support each other as we flex our wings and enjoy our femininity. It's always a great comfort to know that we are not alone, but that our vision and needs are also shared by many others.

Thanks for your continuing leadership in our community. Without people like the two of you, the transgendered community would still be deep in a dark closet. Thanks for taking the lead and making the world a better place for all of us.

As usual, I have enclosed a few recent photos. Thanks again for your leadership and hard work.
Love, Jeri Janes
PO Box 9215
Salt Lake City, UT 84109



Jeri

Wife Is Against CD'ing

I love each issue of *LadyLike*; the pictures and articles are so helpful. I live and teach in a very small rural wood products and farming town in Southern Oregon. I'm 49 years old and have been crossdressing for almost a year.

It is so very hard to be a lady in the boonies. My wife is totally against my ladyness. When I told her she cried and was very hurt. In May we will celebrate 30 years of marriage. Our church is also against crossdressing. My 30 year teaching job could go instantly since we live in a conservative town and the state removed tenure for educators. Yet, I still get in touch with my feminine side.

I love to fish and am planning a 2 week fishing trip to British Columbia, Canada, alone, if I can pull it off. Would love to get in touch with some girls or my TV group on or near Vancouver Island. Any suggestions?

Heather Groves, Ore.

Heather: The only group we know about up that way is the Zenith Foundation. Contact them at Box 46, 8415 Granville St., Vancouver, British Columbia V6P 4Z9 Canada. Hope you catch a few fish, and be careful not to get your hook caught in your garter belt. Regarding your confidential question: Don't give up a long term investment for a fantasy. It's really not worth it.

Pleased With Criss Cross

Please find my enclosed check to renew my subscription. You are right, I do not want to miss a single issue.

I have included some pictures. Several months ago I had the chance to go to Houston and meet Katherine Cloire [of Criss Cross Consultants]. She worked with me and the pictures enclosed are from that trip. I told Katherine that I would write her and let her know how the pictures turned out. But, sad to say, I haven't had the chance. I am hoping she will see them in *LadyLike* and recognize them. I will try to write her soon.

If any readers in the Houston area have the chance to visit Katherine let me give you my sincere approval of her services. I felt very secure and was treated very much like a lady while there. But most important of all was the experience of really going out for the first time and the many tips that really made a difference in my feminine appearance. I don't get to go out very often but this was truly an experience of a lifetime for me. If, like me, any of the *LadyLike* readers don't get out very often, then do it right with a professional like Criss Cross if at all possible.

In closing let me say *LadyLike* is tops with me. I love every issue and can't wait until the next one



Linda

comes. Keep up the good work. It means more than I can explain and I'm sure there are plenty out there that feel the same way I do.

Thanks,
Linda Bloir

Long Lost Photos Still Lost

I have had these studio photos for far too long in the file of things to do, to get them to *LadyLike*... hopefully for publication! But as with everything related to life, there are just not enough days in the hour to cover all bases. I'm ashamed to say they were taken in August 1995, and with the express purpose to send them to you! One thing after the other, the days, months, and finally years, slipped by, and the job wasn't done. Patti LeGory (the photographer) was so hopeful that I would be diligent, but I am known for my procrastination and por excellence, and I have amply proved it.

Patti LeGory is an excellent photographer. I was not her first TG subject, but I'm the first to try for notional publication. She is sensitive, creative, and an excellent artist. She has won prizes at our local County Fair with general subjects, so she is becoming known.

As for me, I am still in the closet, past 69 now, and just as devoted to getting out as ever. I have been published several times in your fine magazine and I want to see it continue. I have no problems with the picture caption noting my address, as you did in my letter in issue #36. It is interesting that I have not received one inquiry

continued on page 13

LadyLike

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Letters...

since that issue come out, but then, I know that often it is hard to write in the blind to a stranger while attempting to validate the rightness of our blessings and to put suggestions to use.

I have recently, in the strictest secrecy, come out to the former pastor of my church because I read in the *Femme Mirror* [the Tri-Ess national publication] the need to locate and establish church connections with sympathetic pastors or leaders. It was not difficult to do this, as I thought he would have some prior understanding. I knew that he was one of the 80 or so church ministers who had attended the great celebration in Sacramento recently when two beautiful people pledged their troth, much to the chagrin of the church proper. As it turned out, he is more familiar with gay issues, and not with transgender generally, though he had heard of it. The upshot of it is that he is interested, but referred me to another, younger pastor who would be interested in further discussion.

Well, must get this off in a timely fashion, so if you can see your way to publishing these photos in an upcoming issue, please give Patti LeGory her just recognition. She has certainly earned it!! Thank you.

Love and hugs galore,
Lois Eloine Fisher



Concerned About Public Opinion

I am as concerned as any of us girls about the religious right taking control of our government however I think that many have lost sight of the more important issues concerning the impeachment of President Bill Clinton. I feel that it is extremely unfortunate that the position of our Democratic Congressmen and Senators was decided apparently more on popular opinion than on

the rule of law. Whenever we allow public opinion to take precedence over the rule of law we leave ourselves wide open for all kinds of serious trouble.

The McCarthyism communist witch hunts and the incarceration of the hundreds of thousands (of) US citizens without benefit of due process, i.e., the incarceration of the Japanese Americans during W.W.II held extremely popular support. But neither would have occurred if we had held to the rule of law and our constitutional protections.

We are, even at this time, relatively well protected if we will but utilize existing laws for our defense. Admittedly it could be better; we could be included specifically by amendment to existing or proposed legislation, but we are not without current recourse against discrimination or harm if we hold to the rule of the intent of the law.

Public opinion currently seems to be building on our side but public opinion is notorious for turning on the drop of a hot and I do not think that it is a good idea to allow public opinion to be the deciding factor in our future. We are too easy to forget to allow our lives and freedom to be subject to the whims of popular opinion.

The Constitution of the United States was designed to protect the minority from the tyranny of the majority. It was designed to protect people like us from the whims of even an overwhelming majority.

While you may believe that Bill Clinton's lie under oath to conceal his outrageous behavior towards women did not rise to the level required for removal from office it would be a serious mistake to turn Constitutional Law over to majority opinion. It must not be forgotten, in rescuing the likes of Bill Clinton from his obnoxious behavior towards the women we try to emulate, what the Constitution stands for and the minority, us included, that it is designed to protect.

Sincerely, Melonie Okubo

Glad She Told Spouse

Hi, My name is Stephanie, and I'm a 32 year old married hetero TV. Like many of us I've been dressing ever since I can remember. I am 5'8", 180 lbs., shoe size 11, dress size 14. I've enclosed a few pictures with the hope that I look good enough to appear in your magazine.

My wife has known for about the past three years. Although it was hard to tell her, and even harder to accept, she now supports and accepts me for who I am (it helps that I do her nails). Due to my work schedule, I haven't had much of a chance to go out, but the few times I have been basically positive experiences, and I'm looking to go out more often. The first outing was my wife and I went to a movie on my 30th birthday. Unfortunately for me, I did get a few looks and overheard some whispered comments while waiting in line, but nothing too severe.

Then, about a year ago, we went to a Rapture dance party for TV's at a banquet hall here. While it was fun, and I got to meet a lot of interesting, sweet people, it was the



first one and attendance was not really strong. Since then, I've heard they have these about every three months, and the attendance has gotten better.

My latest outing was Halloween weekend. I went to a salon for a makeover, then one of the girls I met at the Rapture party and I went out. We went to dinner at a restaurant called 'confusion,' where we didn't even get a glance. It was a very uplifting experience, and the staff there was most kind. After that, we were going to go to Dennis Rodman's club, Illusions, where my friend had been many times before, with complete acceptance. However, we had heard a local radio personality, Moncow Mueller, was to be there that night as well, and knowing the crowd he attracts, I decided not to chance it. We had gotten a late start anyway, so I came home instead. Next month, my wife and I are going to Vegas, and I'm going to be able to spend some time as Stephanie there, probably about 2 out of the 5 days, which I'm looking forward to very much.

In closing, I must say that, for me, taking the chance and telling my wife turned out to be the best thing that I could have done, and I wish I'd done it sooner. I hope to continue to lose weight, and eventually, to run a TV oriented business (club, clothing store, or salon) here in town, since there's very few places I know of here in town like that. We'll have to see what happens. Thanks for a great magazine!

Love, Stephanie

Fantasies Tend To Be Trashy

So kind of you to publish an early photo of me in issue #36. I hope the enclosed photos will be included in future issues and meet with your approval, as we all can use a lift to our libido! Really.

Really enjoyed the interview with Lindo K. whose sweet soul touched me. Though my fantasy while dressed tends to run on the trashy side it's nice to know not everybody is like me. Though I know where to entertain that side of my person your tasty publication fills a void, none the less.

continued on page 15

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Letters...



Carlotta

Nat being computer literate or having one limits my raving eye, so I so look forward to *LadyLike*. Only I wish you were able to publish it monthly or at least every other month. The magazine format of *Transgender Community News* is more appealing and you and your columnists have risen to the occasion.

I suppose the bottom line will always dictate your major decisions, but have you thought of combining *LadyLike* and *TCN*? You certainly have the talent and staff and material to do a bong up, monthly, color publication and would free you all up to concentrate on our community and its present and future needs. Thanks for all your efforts on our behalf.

Sincerely, Carlotta

PO Box 222, Glenford, NY 12433

Corlotta, I'm glad you like *LadyLike* enough to want to see it every month, but I do have to take a moment to correct a misconception on your, and perhaps a few other's, parts. The only connection between *TCN* and *LadyLike* is the fact that I (Angela) edit both magazines. *LadyLike* is very much JoAnn's publication and a commercial venture of CDS. In that respect, I am her employee.

Transgender Community News is published by The Renaissance Transgender Association, Inc., a non-profit organization that is dedicated to educating about TG issues. I work for Renaissance to produce *TCN*. To make things more confusing I happen to also be Executive Director of Renaissance.

Combining *TCN* and *LadyLike* isn't possible due to

CDS being a "for-profit" company and Renaissance being a nonprofit. In fact, the magazines do tend to compliment each other, with *LadyLike* providing a more fun aspect and *TCN* carrying more "think pieces."

As for *LL* coming out more often, Jo and I discuss it every now and then, and then we look at the piles of work we already have to do and say, "Nah!"

[JoAnn comments — Actually, we are evolving going to bimonthly. It will depend on increasing our circulation, so talk it up and get your friends to subscribe.]

A Winter Picture For July!

Oh! It was wonderful to open my mailbox today, to find issue #36 there. I haven't had time to pore over it cover to cover. But, before I go any further, I'm enclosing a check for renewal. I don't want to miss a single copy. So, please add this to my account.



Krissy

So, come on girls! Dig into your purses, get that checkbook out, the one we hate to balance. Let's renew or get a new subscription. We have to keep JoAnn and Team going.

Thanks sweet heart. Keep up the good work!

Love, Krissy (FWD3174)

PS: I'm enclosing a new winter picture. I hope you can get it in before spring gets here.

Gee, after that rah, rah sign up and support the team I feel bad about taking so long to get your "winter" picture

in. Oops. But, if we waited just a little longer it would be right in style. Sorry.

And you heard her girls! Get out those checkbooks. Angelo needs a new pair of shoes.

Worried About Fading Freedom

JoAnn, your editorial (LL#36) disturbs me because our fading freedoms have been on my mind. Gaddess! We can become a dictatorship with Y2K, or another energy crisis, or terrorist siege, and the TG community loses its voice in Washington over pettiness.

This girl is hardly anyone significant. I have no idea where to even begin to do this type of work. I don't know how much I can accomplish while putting in 70 hours at work! Sometimes I feel like a sitting duck even when my co-workers accept me as a transvestite. So what can I do? Does everything happen thru Tri-Ess and Renaissance (neither of which I have membership in)?

So let me know.. or let us know collectively. We all need one another.

Blessed be! Lynnea Stuart

Lynneo: Don't be too alarmed about fading freedoms. A federal judge in Indiana just forced a high school to let a mole student attend the prom in a red dress with matching accessories. The judge told the school it had to let the boy attend in a dress because his wearing a dress is protected under the First Amendment. The Constitution is a powerful document and with it on our side I don't think we have to worry about Y2K or a terrorist siege.

As far as what you can do: You say you don't have a membership in any organizations (aside from being a dedicated *LadyLike* reader). The first thing you can do is find an organization that you like (I prefer Renaissance, but then again I'm biased) and become a member. Your membership dollars help to support groups that are trying to make a difference for TG people nationwide. If you have no time to participate in a Lobby Day you can make a donation to the groups that sponsor and promote these events. You can also take a minute and write a letter to your congressman, your mayor, or your city council, and identify yourself as a person who supports equal rights for everyone. If an anti-discrimination bill is being proposed you can write to the legislators and say you support the bill. You can identify yourself as transgendered if you want, or you can just say you support the legislation and not say that you are personally affected. Legislators do listen to the voice of the people. If every TG individual raises their voice in support of the other TG voices then legislators will listen and our rights will be better protected.

Attracted To Special Girls

I know that your magazine is not a contact publication, but depending on how things go this coming month,

continued on page 16

Letters...

would there be any chance of having a short letter expressing my views and appreciation of the special girls who epitomize so well the idealized version of what a truly feminine woman should be, appear in your letters section? Having looked through the issues of LL that I do have, I have not seen any letters from what I'd call regular, masculine men that find themselves attracted to and appreciative of the beautiful girls that grace your pages. I can't imagine that I am the only guy who feels this way, though perhaps printing a letter from a man that is not a crossdresser himself is a precedent you are not willing to set. It's funny, as much as the girls in your magazine enjoy being as completely feminine as they can, I equally enjoy being masculine and would feel whole and complete with a partner who is happy with the roles we relish. My hope is to find someone that is nice intelligent, confident and truly yearns to be as complete a woman as she can.

All my best, Frank Russo #277492
PO Box 861 6-Right
Trenton NJ 08625

You're not alone. See the next letter.

Looking For A Significant Other

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Rick. I know all about being different and having a hard time finding my significant other. I believe that a pre-op or non-op transsexual looking for a relationship with a man would be the answer to my dreams. I'm looking for a friend, partner, and lover. Someone I can take care of and someone to take care of me.

There's more to a relationship than just sex. I'm a wild and crazy looking guy but I'm also a romantic. My love's happiness is primary to me.

I would like to hear from any non-op or pre-op transsexual out there looking for a man to love them. I will answer every letter I get.

Rick Sauter #32610
Box 4000
Florence AZ 85232



Frank was correct; we're not a contact magazine but both Frank and Rick represent an important, but often neglected, segment of the t-community. These guys are looking for a transgender woman as an SO.

Both of these guys are incarcerated and I have no idea what that has to do with anything except they haven't been on the outside in a while. If you're interested in corresponding, write to one or both. At the very least, you may make a friend.

Loves Angela's Editorials

Hi! I just wanted to say a few things to all of you who make *LadyLike* what it is. It is so refreshing to finally discover a magazine like yours. It's so informative, without being dry reading.

Angela, I love your editorials. The subjects are so timely and pertinent. Your style of writing really touches my soul. Either with your humor or your pain, I feel both!

Laurie Ann, girl, you do know your flick! I never realized that [some of these] movies you reviewed were ever made.

JoAnn, what can I say about you? I heard from an old friend of yours what you have done with *Renaissance* and *LadyLike*. Girl I am so totally impressed! You are bright, beautiful and tenacious. Oh yes, I forgot, caring too.

I cannot believe the forum you have given us girls to use. I cannot believe that I didn't know of this years ago.

Hugs and kisses, Deb

"Old Chick" Has Good Advice

You folks are doing a fantastic job and you're to be commended for such a great magazine. I look forward to many more issues, and like most of us girls, wish it could be published more often.



I've enclosed a recent photo of myself that I would like you to publish in the next issue of *LadyLike*. I turn 58 this year, not bad for an old chick, huh? I've been a crossdresser all my life, starting very early in childhood. I

wish I could say my mother dressed me like a girl but that wasn't the case. It just felt good! You girls know what I mean. My teens were filled with both feminine excitement and denial. I had no one to talk to and I didn't know why I had these feelings. My twenties brought me into full bloom, but in the 1960's TV/CDs did not enjoy the freedom they do know. When I was 32 I met another TV like myself and a whole new world opened up to me. It was like being born again, both in mind and body.

Well to make a long story short, today I enjoy my femininity to the fullest. It's a blessing girls, not a curse. Go for it, you only live once, or maybe twice, as your feminine self. I can really say: been there, done that.

Love ya all, Jackie
PO Box 265, Springville, NY 14141

Loved Cal Dreamin'

I'm enclosing a few shots for consideration taken during the recent *Cal Dreamin'*. *Cal Dreamin'* was memorable because it gave me a chance to spend more than just a few hours "en femme." I was able to meet so many other wonderful girls of all sizes, ages, styles, and persuasions during the day and then during cocktails and dinner both evenings.

Also special was that for the first time I had a dress made just for the occasion and it turned out simply marvelous—electric blue with shoes to match. Unfortunately, all the pictures taken of it were digital and I have nothing to forward. Half the fun was the fitting sessions to get the dress just right and then seeing the results.

Equally fun was the opportunity to visit the Queen Mary on consecutive nights and party and dance the night away. On Saturday night a GG grad student decided she would conduct a little "on site" research with us. I don't know who had more fun, but it was close.

I look forward to Southern Comfort in the Fall. Perhaps we will be lucky enough to say hello in person.
Gina Martine, Calif.

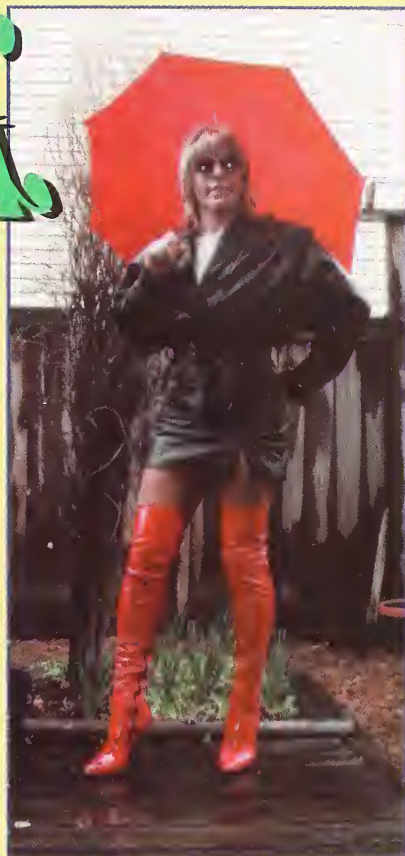


Gina

Mirror Mirror



Kristen S.,
PMB 177,
360-23 W
Schick Rd,
Bloomington
IL 60108
▶



▲ Renee Miller, 503 Keystone, Waterloo IA 50703

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◀ Rachael Jean Tracy
Fla. FWD 1902

PJ, PO Box 9038,
Colorado Springs Colo. 80932 ▼



Carlotta, PO Box 222
Glenford NY 12433-0222 ▼



▲ René M., Calif — renee@tgforum.com

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To order any clothing in this ad simply provide your chest and waist measurement below and we will send you the correctly sized piece. Take advantage of our sale prices now. *All models shown are transgendered (DR03 - Amanda / DR01 Michelle - Thanks Girls!)

Style DR03
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Color: Gold
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SKIRT
Style SK01
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Price:
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Style DR01
Your Basic Black dress. Simple yet elegant. Dress it up with jewelry for special events. Made in a smooth poly knit material.
Color: Black
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(All handbags in pictures not included)



BLOUSE
Style TP01
New Lace top. Fits tight and sexy. Dense lace pattern for hair coverage. Fits Chest
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Colors: Black, White
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Style LW17
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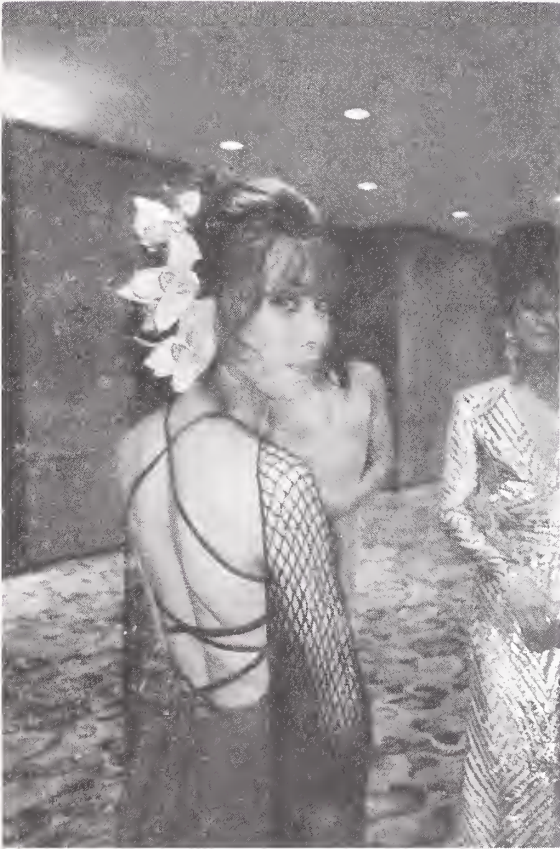
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Night of a Thousand Gowns

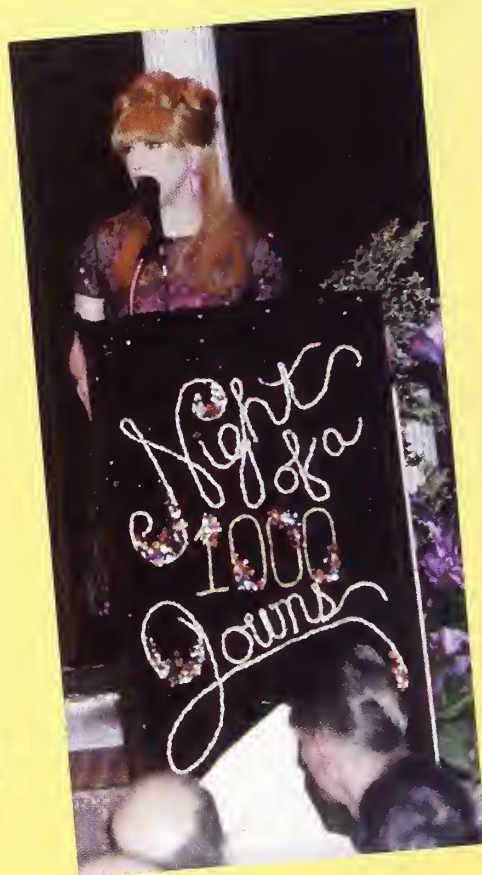


Every year around March, the Imperial Court of New York hosts their Night Of A Thousand Gowns charity event. If you haven't been to one, you just don't know what you're missing. On these few pages we will try to give you a hint of the glamour and beauty of the event.

All photos by Dana B.



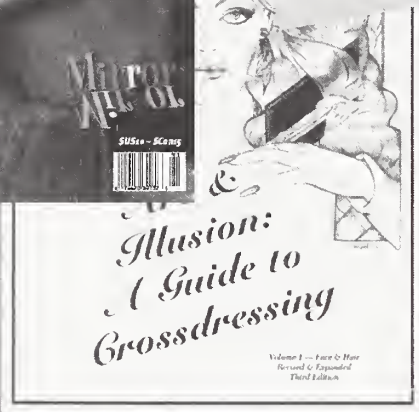
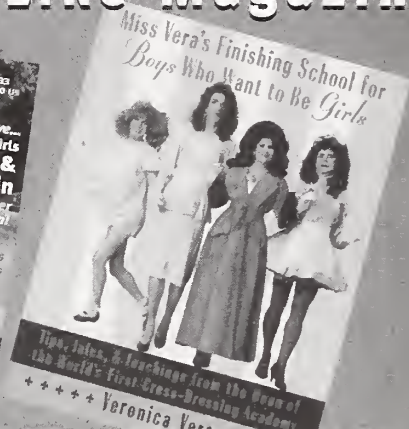
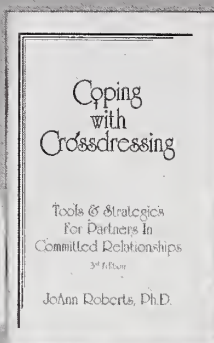
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FWD3219



Send Your Photos

The most frequent praise we get here at *LadyLike* Magazine is, "Your girls are the best!" And, the most frequent request we get is, "Can I write to -----?" So, we've responded to what our readers want. If you include your mailing name and mailing address on the back of your photo, we will print your address with your photo in the magazine so people can write to you directly. If you want us to forward mail for you **and you are a subscriber**, include \$10 and we'll forward any mail for you for the length of your subscription. Use your customer number on your photos.

If you want to write to someone whose picture appears in the magazine, look for an address and write directly. Or, look for a forwarding number like FWD9999 with the photo. If there is a FWD number, write your letter, put it in a #9 envelope and **in pencil** write the FWD number on the front. For **each** letter to be forwarded, put your letter, the #9 envelope, correct postage in stamps and \$2 in another envelope (#10 or larger) and mail it all to us here at *LadyLike* Magazine, c/o PO Box 61263, King of Prussia, PA 19406-1263.



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▼ Linda Blair, Ark.



▲ Heather, Ore, FWD3614

▼ Rachel Sands, IA
rachaelsands@hotmail.com



Mirror Mirror



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Angie Lyn,
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Michelle, Ill. FWD3624 ▲

Jackie, NH FWD3392 ▼



▼ PJ, PO Box 9038, Colo Spr. CO 80932



Ruth, Conn. FWD1005 ▲



▲
Angela Johnson
PO Box 23323
St Louis MO 63156
angela3884@aol.com

Finding Rachael

Rachael S.

I once heard being a transsexual or transvestite is a life sentence. That I can agree with. But my question is who did the picking, and for what reason? It's a sexual thing. You were raised wrong. They want to be that way. Hello world! It's me you are talking about, so I want to find out why it happened, what am I, and what caused it.

As a child, you know something is wrong. Before learning girls have different things under their clothes, you want to wear a skirt. It was a wish that could not be fulfilled when I was a child. You were either what you were, or a fag (which we really did not know what they were).

That did not stop me. Clothes were "borrowed" from mom, and put back (but were they?). There was at least one person in the home, that knew something was wrong. Silence was the rule, as things like this are not mentioned then or now. At times, it broke my heart, for this family was golden; a hard working group of three normal boys, and a ultra-masculine father.

Unlike today, there was nothing, and I mean nothing, to find out why. You ask, "Am I the only one?" You envy the guy who has a sister the same size. You recognize the upbringing was almost perfect. Thus, is it me? Trying to get answers, and life was, at times, plain hell.

The later years light another fire. Oh my! Girls are good for other things beside trying to get into one of their dresses. They are soft, pretty, and different. Kissing the little blonde turns into a major thrill and that is who you love. At least I got that right! It held me until I found out the thing you go to the bathroom with is used for something else. Hello, Houston, I got a major problem. We were in a void. If you asked about the "Birds and Bees", the end result was breaking your butt trying to fly out of a tree.

Years of battle and conflict followed. You marry, raise children, you buy stuff and you throw it away. Along the road you pray to be normal; not knowing that for you this *is* normal. It took a long time to understand that.

It started out with a talk show letting the world know about Tri-Ess. This was long over due. I made the initial push by throwing away my bee's wings. As all of us, Rachael found out there are others trying to fly in their own way. With my throat well past my digestive tract, I met Frances. Heck, she fixed cars; there is hope! I went on to meet the girls of Tri-Ess, still not knowing what it was all about. At well over forty, I was determined to find out. The name Gayle Marie was pulled out of the sky. I later found out Gayle was a nonentity. She was what I thought, or possibly what I hoped to be. Tri-Ess offered lots of people, and lots of literature. I tried to find me.

Is has been many years since that all transpired. Gayle

Marie is now Rachael. Although now gone, she was part of my understanding. Discovering there was very little difference between Rachael and the every day me; I switched a few letters to correct things. The name was conceived, but the person was always there. You start getting very analytic about your life. Looking back it is a, "God that's what girls do, and that is how they think." You start to believe the most logical possibility being the hormone imbalance beginning at conception. The male successes can be attributed to overcompensation. The puzzle begins to become recognizable.

I have a tolerant spouse and she puts up with this gender confused person, because of love. Could you hurt somebody like this, and lose their love? You have people who know and care, but due to fear, heads go into the mud. Discussion with non gender-dysphoric people is non existing. I tried to get psychological help twice, and wound up being their teacher. We have ourselves, along with the other girls; and thank God for that.

I remember Dr. [Sheila] Kirk saying you should proceed at your own pace to satisfy your own requirements. We all must follow that advice. I left Tri-Ess knowing there was really no Gayle Marie, but Rachael. Finding *Lady-Like*, along with other publications, helped me a lot. It confirmed what I already realized. Paradise in the Poconos was a guiding light. We are not alone. There are others out there just like me, who are in the same situation. About one hundred and fifty people attended the Poconos affair. Each of us have different needs, and hopefully are able to find ourselves. Knowing we are good caring people makes that baggage and all a bit lighter.

The biggest problem is to understand who you are, and proceed from there. I know Rachael has.



Mirror Mirror

Susan, W Pa. ▼



▲ Lois Fisher, photo by Patti LeGary

azbabe1@juno.com ▼



joycd@aol.com ▼



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FWD3235 ▼



▲ Gina Martine, PO Box 71604, Los Angeles CA 90071
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◀ Ellen McKinnon
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San Diego CA 92196



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Laurie Ann, our
video reviewer
FWD 1688



TV VIDEO REVIEWS



In the past few years there have been a number of films with transgender themes or actors playing a transgendered person. *The Crying Game*; *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*; *To Wong Foo...*, and *M. Butterfly* are recent releases that have achieved some degree of acclaim.

Although there are many more transgender oriented films today, there have been a number of such films since the 1960s. Most were the efforts of independent film makers. Most were low budget and often had obvious technical and acting flaws. Almost all of them had minor and very brief theatrical exposure and quickly faded from sight.

Many of these half-forgotten films have recently been transferred to video tape and are available from video sources that specialize in cult and obscure cinema. This column will review some of the lesser known films. You may find, as I have, that most of these films are not only fun and entertaining to watch, but they also offer some interesting insights about one of our favorite subjects — crossdressing.

I Changed My Sex

Just when I thought there were no more obscure low budget films that explored TG themes, two more show up. I was absolutely delighted when Bill in Michigan sent me the 1977 Spanish film *Cambio De Sexo*, which was released here as *I Changed My Sex*.

I Changed My Sex is dubbed in English. It was directed by Vincent Arada, who is probably best known for the 1972 film *Blood Splattered Bride*, a lesbian vampire tale based upon the classic Sheridan LeFanu horror story *Carmilla*.

I Changed My Sex stars two interesting actresses. Victoria Abril is a talented, young, beautiful Spanish actress, who plays the young boy, Jose Maria. Victoria is well known for her roles in the films of the successful Spanish director Pedro Almodovar. He is known for films that challenge our contemporary notions of sex, gender, and nationality. He often features TG characters in his films, the best known of which is *High Heels*, which also starred Abril. Almodovar not only "discovered" Abril but also Antonio Banderas, who played nerds and gay young men in some of his films.

The other interesting star is the Swedish actress Bibi Anderson, who plays a pre-op TS/female impersonator in the film. She has also appeared in *Law of Desire* and *High Heels*, both Almodovar films, as well as Ingmar Bergman's *The Magician* and *Babette's Feast*.

The most fascinating thing about Bibi Anderson is that she is in real life a post-op TS. I don't have the details about when she had SRS, but I assure you that my information about her comes from factual sources.

I Changed My Sex tells the story about Jose Maria, a very feminine boy. We are told in the opening credits that the story is based upon a real person. We learn that Jose Maria is 5' 7", 115 lbs, and seventeen years old. He is often mistaken for a girl. Working in his father's hotel and restaurant, there is a scene where a customer refers to him as "waitress," much to his and the father's consternation, and his embarrassment.

In school, Jose Maria is taunted by his peers. The principal expels him, telling his mother that her son is "too refined, too delicate and his presence provokes the other boys." Jose's father is furious. He calls his son a "ballerina" and rants and raves at his wife. In his eyes, she is to blame for his son's "delicate" condition.

His solution is to send Jose Maria to a relative's home so "he can learn how to be a man." He says, "You're going to cure yourself or I'll kill you." It is not clear how this "cure" is to take place. The relative excuses Jose from hard work and is sympathetic to his plight.

The father visits Jose Maria and is given a good report on

how his son is "working hard." Elated, he takes his son to Barcelona where he is going to show him how to be a man.

Visiting a nightclub, which is really a high-class strip joint, the father introduces Jose to his friend, Fanny, the star of the show. She is going to introduce Jose to the delights of sexual pleasure with a woman.

Although Jose Maria is not all that interested in the show, he is fascinated by the performance of Bibi Anderson who is billed as "a mystery of nature." Finishing her striptease, she reveals in a brief frontal scene that she has a penis.

Of course, we all know that Jose Maria's interlude with Fanny will be a failure. The father is once again furious with his son. Returning to the relative's home, he announces, "I'll be back in a month. We'll do it all over again. If you fail, I'll kick your ass all the way to Madrid."

Jose Maria doesn't wait. Stealing clothes from his cousin, he runs away to Barcelona. Finding a place to live in a rooming house, he obtains a job as a hairstylist in a sophisticated beauty salon. Living alone, Jose Maria is now collecting a feminine wardrobe and venturing out as Maria Jose. His landlady discovers his secret and is very supportive, despite her boyfriend's disapproval.

Bibi Anderson, the TS performer, becomes one of Maria Jose's clients. They strike up a friendship. Maria Jose has just met a macho guy and assumes that he knows her secret. Telling Bibi she plans to meet him and go to his place, Bibi warns her not to go, "You'll be sorry if you do."

Disregarding Bibi's advice, she goes anyway. The result is predictable. The macho guy assumes she is a virgin since she has said "I'm not exactly a woman." Discovering that she is a boy, he slaps her around and leaves her.

Returning to her apartment, Maria Jose attempts to castrate herself and is hospitalized. Bibi Anderson visits her and says, "If you want to get rid of your penis, there is a perfectly good way to get rid of it."

For reasons that are not made clear, Jose Maria decides to return home and try once again to be a male. To no one's surprise, it doesn't work. The father discovers his secret cache of girl clothes. "It seems like you haven't given up your bad habits." After making Jose Maria "dress up," he physically assaults him.

Returning to Barcelona, and with the help of his very supportive landlady, Maria Jose goes full time. She seeks out Bibi Anderson for help in obtaining work as an impersonator. By now, Bibi has completed SRS. Showing Maria the results of the surgery, she points out, "Showing my dick

made me famous; now I'll have to learn to dance."

Maria Jose impresses the owner of the cabaret and he wants to make her a star. Her stage name becomes Diana Dorsey and she is an immediate hit.

A love affair develops between the cabaret owner and Maria Jose. Arrangements are made for SRS and they fly off to a foreign country to be considered for the procedure. The operation is explained to her and her "husband" through an abbreviated slide show. She is accepted for SRS and the film ends with her new husband seated at her bedside holding her hand.

When I first saw *I Changed My Sex*, I felt it was a near identical clone to the 1972 British film, *I Want What I Want*, which I reviewed in Ladylike # 31. There are numerous similarities in both the story line and the characters. In fact, *I Changed My Sex* completes the story line left incomplete in *I Want What I Want*.

After viewing *I Changed My Sex* a few more times, I began to see more in it and liked it a lot more. The acting is very good. The young Victoria Abril is excellent portraying the 17-year-old boy. In fact she is far better than Ann Heywood's portrayal of Roy/Wendy in *I Want What I Want*. The story line is, overall, a sensitive and realistic portrayal of a TS boy.

There are some contrived scenes especially how quickly Jose Maria can transform himself from an inexperienced feminine boy into a dazzling, self-confident experienced young woman by simply stepping into a wash room and coming out as Maria Jose. The coaching by Bibi and cabaret owner in helping her to learn how to dance and lip-sync is a bit overdone. The psychiatrist's evaluation and the surgeon's overly stiff, cold and clinical manner would discourage any but the most desperate "girl" to go through the complicated and painful surgical procedure. It's almost as bad as the psychiatrist in the film, *Let Me Die A Woman*, reviewed in Ladylike # 26.

I Changed My Sex is available from Video Search of Miami, 305-279-9773.

Next time, Hollywood explores SRS. *Woman Inside* is a little known 1980 film, which I think you'll find to be an interesting video. Love to get your comments and thoughts about these reviews and any videos you would like me to review.

[Ed. note: We apologize for the lack of photos with this review. The quality of the video did not allow us to capture any images suitable for printing.]

I Was A Showgirl, So I Didn't Have To Do Anything

An Interview with Grey Ryder, performer with the Jewel Box Revue

For *aficionados* of professional gender impersonation the Jewel Box Revue has attained the status of legend. How else to describe a professional company of between 20 and 30 performers, which paid union wages, toured incessantly and presented shows for over 25 years? Not only did they have stellar female impersonators, but the emcee was always a male impersonator, Storme De Laviere being the most famous. It's no surprise that they performed in Los Angeles and New York, cosmopolitan "safe" cities on the coasts. But the Jewel Box also performed in those scary middle-size cities far from either ocean: Rochester, Dallas, Akron, Detroit, Boise, Louisville, Oklahoma City, Cairo, IL, McKeesport, PA and Greeley, CO, to name a few.

... What was the secret of their success? Well, Danny Brown, one of the founders, said, "The Jewel Box Revue is just a clean, family-type show." While agreeing that "female impersonation took on an unsavory character and fell out of popularity" early in the 20th century, Danny is quick to point out that, "We revived the art by staffing our company with actors of unimpeachable moral standards. Our players lead lives that are as normal as any in show business." This must have been comforting for audiences to know but, "lives as normal as any in show business" does leave members of the company considerable room for moral latitude.

We wanted to write about the Jewel Box Revue for some time, but we didn't want a lifeless article, culled from books and newspaper clippings. This story needed an informant who could really say "been there, done that." Sometimes seren-

dipity takes a hand. During the Q&A following Ms Bob's presentation slide show, "The History and Significance of 'Female Mimics' Magazine, 1963-1979" at a Transgender San Francisco (TGSF) event, one member of the audience mentioned that he had performed in the Jewel Box. Hearing that, Ms Bob single-handedly blocked all the exits and prevented Grey Ryder, retired Jewel Box performer, from leaving, until he surrendered his phone number, that is.

MB: Tell us about your life before you joined the Jewel Box?

GR: I was born in Los Angeles at the Hollywood

A recent photo of "Betty," Grey's alter-ego. The beaded blue dress is a Bob Mackie. Grey, who weighs 140 lbs. is a size 12.



Ms Bob
&
Carol Kleinmaier



Grey emceeing a benefit for Project Open Hand in San Francisco, ca 1999.

Presbyterian Hospital. At the time we lived in Santa Monica. I didn't like the people I was living with, who, unfortunately, were my parents, so I decided to run away. My father was an alcoholic. There were three boys. I was the baby. I didn't like my brothers. Still don't.

MB: How old were you when you ran away?

GR: Four. My grandmother had taken me to see a picture that had this lady with this wonderful big hat in it. Later on I found out that it was Carmen Miranda. So I decided to go live with her. I took my Mother's best cocktail dress, and a big, black picture hat, got on my tricycle and ran away. They found me behind the screen at the movie theater wearing the dress trying to find Carmen Miranda.

That was my first time running away, but not nearly my last. It finally worked at fourteen. I went into Hollywood and worked at any job I could get: dishwasher, bus boy. I worked for Diner's Club in the mail room. Worked for W. Palmer Fisher, Attorneys at Law. United Parcel. Mostly restaurants, until they'd find out how old I was and I'd get fired. I only went through the tenth grade. When I turned forty, I went to college.

MB: When did you start performing?

GR: I did some legitimate stage. I worked for the Henry Wilcoxon Group Players, an LA outfit, for about three or four years. Wendy, his daughter was a good friend of mine and that's how I got involved with them. First I was a stage hand and then in little parts. It was all volunteer. I was just a little boy. This started in 1954, before I left home. It was all religious plays, which was pretty incongruous for me. I wasn't a religious person.

MB: When did you start performing in drag?

GR: In drag? In 1961 when I joined the Jewel Box Revue. I met Nick DeSailly, the choreographer, and we became lovers. They'd just fired somebody and were short one "girl." He said, "Why don't you do it?" Well, I said I'd only done it once before in my life, which was true, just for Halloween. He said, "Yea, well, you have a theater background, so it shouldn't be hard." I said "OK," 'cause it was a great way to see the United States.

At the audition I had to put on the showgirl costume. If I had good legs, I passed the test. I did have good legs, so I passed the test. I was 21. You can get away with anything at 21. In the Jewel Box the performers had to sing, they had to dance, but I was a show girl, so I didn't have to do anything. Well, I did have a comedy bit with a man named Billy Austin, which was basically "The Two Old Bags from

continued next page

Grey, performing as Eddie Bush, backstage at the El Capitan in Hollywood, circa 1961.





Grey performing in Chicago. His fire engine red dress was made by fellow Jewel Box Revue performer Bruno Le Fantastique.

Oakland." It was two old woman bantering back and forth and a song. We would change the city to wherever we were working.

I was with the Jewel Box about a year and a half. We traveled the whole time. Most of the time it was one big bus. Often people had their own cars or found their own way. The company was 25 men and a girl. The girl was Storme De Laviere. It was an exciting show. Ted Cappe, one of the choreographers, went on to do the movie "Lil Abner." Mike Nichols, when he was a starving artist, did some of the comedy writing.

Of course female impersonators were always paid shit,

but at the Jewel Box you had to be an AGVA member (American Guild of Variety Artists). It was union. When I was a featured act I was making \$400, no \$500, a week, a lot of money in 1961! When they dropped my feature, it went down to like \$225, which was still decent money. Danny and Doc realized that they weren't going to get quality work without paying for it. The Jewel Box was started in 1938 in Florida by Doc Benner and Danny Brown. They were running it when I was with them and ran it until they both died. Danny used to pass out the Benzedrine and Doc used to design the dresses.

MB: Was that what kept the company going?

GR: Most of them. I didn't do the Benzedrine. The dresses I did.

MB: But you only did drag once between running away looking for Carmen Miranda and when you joined the Jewel Box?

GR: I think it was always there. The inclination was always there. I still do drag, but I just don't do it as often.

MB: You do it with great aplomb, I'm sure.

GR: Try. It takes lots of tape. (both laugh) When I do drag my personality changes so much. Most people, who have known me for years, when they first see me in drag, they honestly don't have any idea who I am. Grey goes away and my alter-ego comes out, Betty. She's very sweet. Doesn't swear. Won't open a door. Won't light a cigarette. Almost doesn't drink, cause there's nothing worse than a sloppy drag queen. Besides, I like to be intact. On those rare occasions that I do drag now it takes me so long that I'm not about to screw it up in two hours.

MB: What name did you use at the Jewel Box?

GR: Oh, my own name, Mr. Eddie Bush, though now my name's legally Grey Ryder. I'm sure it was a slam at my family.

MB: Did your family ever find out?

GR: My Mother knew. But I was paying her bills, so she couldn't give me much flack.

MB: What was the first Jewel Box performance you were in?

GR: When I joined the Jewel Box was at the Music Box in Los Angeles, which is a theater that holds about 500, for six weeks. We were so popular, could have stayed, but the



Bruno Le Fantastique (center) with the Jewel Box Revue. Mickey Marlowe, left wearing stripes on a pedestal, and bride Gene Chandler are both wearing "pin and fold" creations, like those Bruno would do in front of the audience as part of his act.

lease was up and couldn't get it renewed there. So the show moved to the El Capitan, which was a larger theater, on Vine Street, just above Hollywood Boulevard. And when we left there we went to play the main room at Mapes' Riverside Hotel in Reno.

MB: Was this when Reno enacted its ban on female impersonators?

GR: Yes. We were in our fifth week when we got kicked out of town because, I think, the headline in an Associated Press story said something about, "a very liberal society to have a flock of female impersonators in their own back yard." We were booted out, which meant that everybody in the show was shorted a week's pay. But, then we were rescued. The Mary Kaye Trio came in and did the midnight show and the Kim Sisters did the 8 o'clock show for free and they paid us.

MB: An Associated Press article said that, "The review replaced a bare-bosom girlie show."

GR: Could be.

MB: Wasn't the Catholic Church involved?

GR: It was a long time ago, but as I remember it wasn't

so much the City Council, they were in on it, but it was the Catholic Church who started the witch-hunt. The funny thing about it was, well, you could take a five-year-old to any Jewel Box show. There's nothing the least bit smutty or dirty about it and there's no nudity. It's all glamour, powder puffs and sequins.

MB: Was there a lot of double entendre?

GR: A little bit of that. Maybe a savvy 14-year-old would get it, but even then it wasn't that dirty.

MB: Who were the other performers, the stars?

GR: The star of the Jewel Box at that time was Lynn Carter. Lynn was always very nice to me. Distant, but basically a nice guy. Incredible talent. A rather homely man out of drag, and in drag he just made it work. But he left the show.

The last place he played with the Jewel Box was the Riverside Hotel. He'd been with it long enough and decided he wanted to go on his own. From what I understand, of course this is just hearsay, he bought a small hotel back in Provincetown.

There was Bruno Le Fantastique. He was on the Ed Sullivan Show twice. He was my dressing room roommate. He was older, but who cared? He was so wonderful. He'd come out in a bustier and he would tear out yards of fabric, different kinds of fabric and make a gorgeous gown out of it, just by folding and pinning. He could put it on anyone. Then one of us from the company would be his model. He'd do two, usually a cocktail evening dress and a wedding gown. Bruno never said a word. There was music throughout and it was all very choreographed.

He was originally with the Folies Bergeres. That's how he got on Ed Sullivan. And then later he did a half-man/half-woman. (The costume was divided down the center, so that when he turned one way the audience saw a man and when he turned the other way, a woman.) He would do a little cocktail scene and dance with this man and woman, which was all him. The audience was so confused that half of them didn't know it was one person. He was a very talented man.

Doddie Daniels was one of the featured acts, a fabulous entertainer, one of the best entertainers I've ever seen. He's

Black and still plays in the South, to the best of my knowledge. He came out in hot pink and orange with orange hair. He'd start out with "My Heart Belongs to Daddy" and when he got to "When tearing off a game of golf" someone would reach through the curtains behind him and yank the coat off. He was in a hot pink, flowered lace gown and each flower had a mirror, so he just dazzled. He'd sing. He had, actually, a deep voice, but he could get away with it, because he was a really good entertainer.

MB: You said you were with the company for a year-and-a-half. Were you on the move the whole time?

GR: Yep. It was a very popular show. We used to do six weeks at a time, six to eight weeks. I played Loew's State Theatre (New York), the Pink Poodle in Indianapolis, the Riverside Hotel in Reno, the Schubert Theatre in Washington, DC, the Michigan Theatre in Flint, the El Capitan Theatre in Hollywood, the Music Box Theatre in Hollywood, the Howard Theatre in Washington, DC and the Apollo Theatre (Harlem), the old Apollo, not the new.

MB: Did you travel with a band?

GR: Band? An orchestra with a conductor! Well, the main people of the orchestra. Then they would hire locals. The show was over two hours; all backed with music.

We did the same show for the whole year and a half I was in the Box. I did one number in a quartet, an old Eve Arden song, "Don't Be a Woman, If You Can." Each of us would do a verse: one verse on perfume and one on hair. Mine was about nail polish. It was very popular. It was done kind of Maguire Sisters with hand movement, which were all the same, like the Supremes did.

MB: With close harmony singing.

GR: Not me. When it came time for, "Don't be a woman, if you can," I mouthed.

MB: So why did you leave the company?

GR: Five shows a day, six days a week was part of it. This was right at the tail end of vaudeville. We'd do a show; they'd show a movie; we'd do a show; they'd show a movie. So our first show was at 1 o'clock in the afternoon and we performed until 1 o'clock at night. And actually I got fired. They decided I was too tall for the Bal Tabrin in New York. They just wanted to get rid of me.

Maybe they wanted to get rid of Grey, or Eddie, but that's the furthest thing from our minds. Next issue "Flash Back" will continue this interview.



A Case Of Mistaken Identity

There's a wonderful story about Ty Tanic, who was not with the show when I was there. She went to work for the 181 Club in New York. She had a deep voice, a real whisky voice, and was about 7 feet tall. Now when the guys would do shows at the 181 Club, which was a large club, they were allowed to come out and mix with the audience. Eddie Fisher, Debbie Reynolds, Elizabeth Taylor and, Miss Taylor's husband at the time, who I think was Mike Todd, were there. Ty Tanic was invariably sloshed, drunk, she walked up to Liz Taylor, and said, "Aren't you Liz Taylor?" And Liz Taylor said, "Fuck no, I'm Natalie Wood."

Ty Tanic



Ms BOB is a collector of gender related books, magazines and ephemera. Irregularly she distributes a list of items for trade or sale. She can be contacted c/o *LadyLike* or at <msbob@tgforum.com>.

CAROL KLEINMAIER is a founding member of Transgendered Nation. For over a decade she has been an activist for both gender and AIDS issues.

If there is any subject or person you'd be interested having covered in FLASH BACK, *LadyLike's* history column, please, let us know and we will try to oblige.

U.S. Support Groups

Our listings are the most up-to-date. Please keep us informed of any changes or additions. Thanks!

National US Membership Organizations

International Foundation for Gender Education, PO Box 229, Waltham, MA 02254.

Publishes Transgender Tapestry (\$40/year subscription). Reprints and books on TV/TS subjects, other info. Hosts annual conference in different locations around the country. Phone: 617-899-2212. <ifge@ifge.org><www.ifge.org>

Renaissance Education Association, Inc.,

987 Old Eagle School Rd., Suite 719, Wayne, Pa. 19087. 610-975-9119 24 hr. answering machine, but phones are answered personally on Monday and Thursday evenings. Membership fee of \$40 includes a 24-page monthly publication *Transgender Community News*. Also publishes Background Papers and Community Outreach Bulletins on transgender issues for personal and professional use. Speakers available for classroom, corporate, or media discussions of transgender issues. Renaissance currently has four chapters and seven affiliates. Affiliates are noted with "(*)" in the list below. Renaissance is a 501(c)(3) non-profit membership organization. <angela@ren.org> <http://www.ren.org>

Society for the Second Self (SSS), Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275. Focused on families and relationships. Tri-Ess publishes the *Femme Mirror* quarterly and hosts an annual convention. Tri-Ess chapters are marked with "*" in the list below. Tri-Ess is a non-profit membership organization. <jeftris@aol.com> <http://www.firstnethou.com/brenda>

Alaska

Alaska T People c/o Bobbie Wendy Tucey, PO Box 670349 Chugiak AK 99567 NA

Alabama

Madison County Gender Center c/o Metropolitan Community Church, 3015 Sparkman Drive NW Huntsville AL 35810 205-851-6914

Arizona

A Rose PO Box 8108 Glendale AZ 85312-8108 602-488-0959

Alpha-Zeta# PO Box 1738 Tempe AZ 85280-1738 602-488-0959 sss@tri-ess.org

Tau Upsilon# 8802 E. Broadway Blvd. #145 Tucson AZ 85710 520-296-3472

California

Androgyny PO Box 480740 (Santa Monica) Los Angeles CA 90048 androgyny.info@usa.net

U.S. G.I.R.L.S. Club P.O. Box 3182 Cerritos CA 90703-3182 danadenyse@tgworld.tierranet.com

Diablo Valley Girls PO Box 272885 Concord CA 94527-2885 dvvg@transgender.org

Ladies Knight Out PO Box 19608-179 Irvine CA

92713 714-262-9105

Gender Expressions PO Box 816 Lakewood CA 90714-0816 310-869-4241 Fax: 310-904-9201

CHIC PO Box 8487 Long Beach CA 90808

Alpha Chapter# PO Box 36091 Los Angeles CA 90036

CD Social Group PO Box 224 Montrose CA 91021

Born Free PO Box 52829 Riverside CA 92517 909-875-2687 bomfree1@aol.com

3rd Sect c/o Sacto. Gender Assoc., PO Box 215456 Sacramento CA 95821-1456 stymie@netcom.com

Sacramento Gender Assoc. PO Box 215456 Sacramento CA 95821-1456 916-482-7742 sacgender@hotmail.com

Neutral Corner PO Box 19008 San Diego CA 92159 619-685-3696 NEUTRAL-CORNER@GEOCITIES.COM

San Francisco Gender Information (SFGI) PO Box 423602 San Francisco CA 94142-3602 Maintains database of transgender resources for San Francisco Bay area.

TGSF PO Box 426486 San Francisco CA 94142-6486 415-564-3246

Rainbow Gender Association PO Box 700730 San Jose CA 95170-0730 408-984-4044 jamie@tgforum.com

Silicon Valley Gender Association 175 Stockton San Jose CA info@svga.org

Thursday Irregulars c/o Joan Sheldon, PO Box 6541 San Jose CA 95150-6541

TGIF Call or email for details Santa Rosa CA 707-544-1540 DianeAnne@Earthlink.Net

Sigma Sigma Beta# PO Box 19933 So. Lake Tahoe CA 96151 n/a

Society for Second Self (Tri-Ess) PO Box 194 Tulare CA 93275 209-688-9246 jftris@aol.com

Tri Chi# PO Box 194 Tulare CA 93275 209-688-9246

Omega Chi# PO Box 1088 Yorba Linda CA 92686

Powder Puffs of California! PO Box 1088 Yorba Linda CA 92886 714-281-0271 ppoc@aol.com

Colorado

Delta# PO Box 16208 Denver CO 80216-6208 301-595-5874 mystie@aol.com.

Gender Identity Center of Colorado, Inc. 1455 Ammons St., Suite 100 Lakewood CO 80215-4993 303-202-6466 GICoColo@aol.com

Pueblo TV/TS Support Group 1144 Clarmont Pueblo CO 81004-2808 shirleyk@iex.net

Connecticut

Connecticut Outreach Society PO Box 163 Farmington CT 06034 (860) 604-6343 ctoutreach@aol.com

GBSING c/o PO Box 162 Haddam CT 06438 GBSING@aol.com

Twenty (XX) Club Inc. PO Box 387 Hartford CT 06141-0387 203-646-8651

Washington DC

Washington-Baltimore Alliance PO Box 50724 Washington D.C. 20091-0724 800-738-0389

Delaware

Renaissance, Delaware Chapter PO Box 5656 Wilmington DE 19808 302-995-1396 sadeCD@aol.com

Florida

Starburst PO Box 6822 Clearwater FL 33756-6822 727-523-8760 tgstarburst@hotmail.com

Trans Alliance of Gainesville PO Box 143102 Gainesville FL 32614-3102 No other information.

Mu Beta Gamma# PO Box 4126 Hialeah FL 33014 305-653-8088 barbaraa@tgforum.com

North Florida Sisters (NFS) PO Box 5765 Jacksonville FL 32245-5765 cdarica@aol.com

Animas PO Box 420309 Miami FL 33242 NA

Gamma Chi Beta# PO Box 510045 Punta Gorda FL 33951-0045 (407) 382-8389 (Alice) tvcaty@peganet.com

Tau Lambda# PO Box 3426 Tallahassee FL 32315-3426 n/a petrad@freenet.tlhufl.us

Gender Society of the Palm Beaches c/o Compass, 1700 N. Dixie Highway W. Palm Beach FL 33407 561-833-3638 RhondaWil@aol.com

Phi Epsilon Mu# PO Box 3261 Winter Park FL 32790-3261 (407) 263-8978 226y25@aol.com

Georgia

AGE! PO Box 98330 Atlanta GA 30359 404-250-8221 ageinfo@gender.org

Sigma Epsilon# PO Box 272 Roswell GA 30077-0272 Unknown404-552-4415

Hawaii

Hawaii Transgender Outreach PO Box 4530 Honolulu HI 96812 808-923-4270 tghawaii@poi.net

Iowa

Iowa Artistry PO Box 75 Cedar Rapids IA 52406 NA Scottm@ins.fononet.net

CIGA PO Box 1925 Clinton IA 52733-1925 319-242-4405 elenamae@juno.com

River City Gender Alliance PO Box 680 Council Bluffs IA 51502-0680 402-398-1255

QCAD Group PO Box 1534 Davenport IA 52809 319-323-5492 QCTGGroup@aol.com

Illinois

Transgender Significant Others 123 West Church Street Champaign IL 61825 217-328-4469

straf@uiuc.edu

Chicago Gender Society PO Box 578005 Chicago IL 60657 708-749-1202

Sunday Society PO Box 478850 Chicago IL 60647 312-486-3125, 310-252-7024

Chi# PO Box 40 Wood Dale IL 60191-0040 708-383-1677

Indiana

International Gender Support c/o Linda BB, PO Box 425 Carmel, IN 46032 Caermel IN 46032 317-299-5377 lindabb@earthlink.net

IXE PO Box 20710 Indianapolis IN 46250 317-971-6976

Transgender Outreach of N. Indiana, Ltd. PO Box 2372 Portage IN 46368 219-650-2142 slay@netnitco.net

Kansas

KCCAF (Kansas City Crossdressers & Friends) PO Box 4092 Overland Park KS 66204 913-791-3847

Wichita Transgender Alliance PO Box 3002 Wichita KS 67201-3002 316-688-0816 wichita_tg@geocities.com

Kentucky

BlueGrass Belles PO Box 20173 Louisville Ky 40250 502-446-2175 (dig. pager) trollop1@earthlink.net

Louisiana

Gulf Gender Alliance ! PO Box 56836 New Orleans LA 70156-6836 (504) 833-3046 info@gga.org

Massachusetts

Sunshine Club PO Box 564 Hadley MA 01035-0564 413-586-5004 clarke@soc.umass.edu

International Foundation for Gender Education PO Box 229 Waltham MA 02454-0229 781-899-2212 ifge@ifge.org

Tiffany Club of New England, Inc. PO Box 71 Waltham MA 02454-0071 781-891-9325 tcne@tcne.org

Maryland

The Bridge Club c/o Michelle Gerakl, PO Box 11737 Baltimore MD 21206-0337 na

Transgender Support Group of Baltimore c/o Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Baltimore, 241 W. Chase St. Baltimore MD 21201 410-837-5445 or 410-837-8888 (7-10pm)

Chi Epsilon Sigma PO Box 505 Brooklandville MD 21022-0505 tri-ess@hotmail.com

Maine

Maine Gender Resource & Support c/o Jean Churchill, PO Box 1894 Bangor ME 04402-1894

continued on next page

Transsupport PO Box 17622 Portland ME 04101 n/a

Michigan

IME of Western Michigan PO Box 1153 Grand Rapids MI 49501

Crossroads PO Box 1245 Royal Oak MI 48068-1245 313-537-3267

Friends North, Inc. PO Box 562 Traverse City MI 49685-0562 (616) 946-1804 GwenChrist@aol.com

Minnesota

Gender Education Center PO Box 1861 Maple Grove MN 55311 612-424-5445

Beta Gamma# PO Box 8591 Minneapolis MN 55408 1-877-4triess kwjohnson@tri-ess.com

City of Lakes Crossgender Community PO Box 14844 Minneapolis MN 55414 651-229-3613 CLCC@topcity.com

Minnesota Freedom of Gender Expression PO Box 17945 St. Paul MN 55117 612-220-9072

Missouri

St. Louis Gender Foundation PO Box 9433 St. Louis MO 63117 314-367-4128 stlgf@aol.com

Mississippi

Southern Belle Society PO Box 3112 Gulfport MS 39505 fox@diversicomm.com

Beta Chi# PO Box 31253 Jackson MS 39286-1253 601-982-7678

North Carolina

Phoenix Transgender Support PO Box 18332 Asheville NC 28814 704-259-9428

Carolina Transensual Alliance (CTA) 4037 E Independence Blvd, Suite 111 Charlotte NC 28205 Open support groups for all transgendered people.

Kappa Beta# PO Box 12101 Charlotte NC 28220-2101 704-565-5034. infolady@kappabeta.org

Triad Gender Association PO Box 2264 Jamestown NC 27282-2264 (336)454-1493 tga@geocities.com

Sigma Rho Delta# PO Box 61406 Raleigh NC 27661-1406 sigmarhodelta@geocities.com

Tau Gamma# PO Box 25282 Raleigh NC 27611

Nebraska

River City Gender Alliance PO Box 8076 Omaha NE 68108-0076 402-398-1255

Nevada

Transgender Support Las Vegas Community Counseling Center, 1120 Almond Tree Lane Las Vegas NV (702) 392-2132 tgsupport.lv@usa.net

Equinox 8175 S Virginia, Suite 850-256 Reno NV 89511-8981 carly4@ix.netcom.com

New Hampshire

Gender Talk North P.O. Box 421 Peterborough NH 03458 603-924-8828 gtnorth@top.monad.net

New Jersey

New Jersey Support PO Box 0034 Montville NJ 07045 973-334-0416 (Susan) Susanw796@aol.com

Monmouth Ocean Transgender! PO Box 394 Red Bank NJ 07701 (732) 219-9094 MOTGinNJ@aol.com

Chi Delta Mu# PO Box 1 River Edge NJ 07661-0001 800-484-7593 (code 4985) cdm81@hotmail.com

Sigma Nu Rho# PO Box 9255 Trenton NJ 08650 (609) 392-1132 SNRTRIS@hotmail.com

New Mexico

Phil (Fiesta)# 8200 Montgomery NE, #241 Albuquerque NM 87109 505-831-2285

New York

TGIC PO Box 13604 Albany NY 12212-3604 518-436-4513

Buffalo Belles PO Box 1701 Amherst NY 14226 (716) 446-2661 buffalo_belles@juno.com

Lambda Chi Lambda# PO Box 1010 Cooperstown NY 13326 607-547-4118 stucomone@aol.com

Transgender Network PO Box 753 New Paltz NY 12561

Gender Identity Project at the Lesbian & Gay Community Services Center One Little West 12th Street New York NY 10014 212-620-7310 webmaster@gaycenter.org

Metropolitan Gender Network 561 Hudson St., Box 45 New York NY 10014 201-794-1665, ext. 332 natashanz@aol.com

CD*Network PO Box 92055 Rochester NY 14692 716-251-2132

Rochester Transgender organization C/O Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley, 179 Atlantic Avenue Rochester NY 14607 716-442-2425 perette@samasher.com

Ohio

Crossport PO Box 1692 Cincinnati OH 45204 606-581-3711 crossportcincy@yahoo.com

Paradise Club PO Box 29564 Cleveland OH 44129 216-586-9292 paradise@igforum.com

Crystal Club PO Box 287 Reynoldsburg OH 43068-0287 614-844-5371 cc@gender.org

TransFamily of Cleveland 2121 S Green Rd S Euclid OH 44121-3300 216-691-4357 Tfam@geocities.com

Alpha Omega PO Box 2053 Sheffield Lake OH 44054-0053 216-556-0067 aomega@ruralamerica.net

Oregon

Rho Gamma# PO Box 5551 Grants Pass OR 97527 loritris@terragon.com

Intermountain Transgender Outreach 1524 Monroe Ave. La Grande OR 97850 541-962-3466 keol@eosc.osshe.edu

North West Gender Alliance PO Box 4928 Portland OR 97208 503-774-8463 nwg@teleport.com

Trans-Port P.O. Box 66913 Portland OR 97290-6913 503-774-8463

Pennsylvania

Erie Sisters! 1903 West 8th St #261 Erie PA 16505 esc@mail.csonline.net

Renaissance, Lower Susquehanna Valley PO Box 2122 Harrisburg PA 17105-2122 717-780-1578

Philadelphia TS Support Group (PTSSG) Wash. West Proj. Bldg, 1201 Locust St Philadelphia PA 19101 netaxs.com

Transpitt PO Box 3214 Pittsburgh PA 15230 412-242-5902

TSG (Transsexual Support Group) 6020 Penn Circle South Pittsburgh PA 15206 412-661-7030 tsg@usaor.net

Renaissance Transgender Association, Inc. 987 Old Eagle School Rd., Suite 719 Wayne PA 19087 610-975-9119 info@ren.org

Renaissance, Greater Philadelphia Chapter 987 Old Eagle School Road, Suite 719 Wayne PA 19087 610-975-9119 gpc@ren.org

Tennessee

Memphis TransGender Alliance PO Box 11232 Memphis TN 38111-0232 901-353-2612

Tennessee Vals PO Box 92335 Nashville TN 37209 615-664-6883 jlove1@ix.netcom.com

Texas

Alpha Tau# PO Box 2753 Cedar Park TX 78630-2753 512-331-5147 bobbi@ccsi.com

Austin Second Image PO Box 679 Leander TX 78641 512-515-5460 ictepl@aol.com

Central Texas Transgender Society PO Box 195 Spicewood TX 78669 512-451-7763

Epsilon Tau# PO Box 945 New Waverly TX 77358 409-344-6014 ttxp@flash.net

Gulf Coast Transgender Community PO Box 90335 Houston TX 77090 713-780-3553

Metropex CD Club PO Box 141924 Irving TX 75014-1924 972-264-7103 brenda.thomas@psl-online.com

Nu Epsilon Tau# PO Box 14096 Pantego TX 76094 214-490-5738 melpeg@ix.netcom.com

Tau Chi# 8800 Bellaire B2, Ste. 104 Houston TX

Texas Assoc. of Transsexuals (T.A.T.S.) PO Box 142 Bellaire TX 77401 713-435-7293

West Texas Gender Alliance c/o Tami Maloney, 5350 Llano St. Abilene TX 79605 kb5gaw@camalott.com

Utah

An Engendered Species PO box 11897 Salt Lake City UT 84147 801-364-0136 dasharia@juno.com

Virginia

Trans-Gender Education Association PO Box 16036 Arlington VA 22215 301-949-3822 tgea@zapp.org

Chi Epsilon Sigma tri-Ess c/o PO Box 382 Norge VA 2317-0382 lucyes@email.women.com

Vermont

TRANS PO Box 5687 Burlington VT 05402 802-865-9970 transvt@aol.com, or meistro@vbmail.champplain.edu

Washington

Bellingham Gender Group 304 W. Champion Bellingham WA 98225 (360) 416-1437 mhowe@pioneermet.net

Emerald City PO Box 31318 Seattle WA 98103 425-827-9494

Ingersoll Gender Center 1812 E. Madison, Suite 106 Seattle WA 98122-2843 206-329-6651 Fax 206-860-6064 ingersoll@ingersollcenter.org

Papillon c/o R2D2, 315 W Mission Spokane WA 99205

Wisconsin

Madison Transgender Group 14W Mifflin St Madison WI 53704 608-255-4297 gutknelj@mail.slh.wisc.edu

Gemini Gender Group P.O.Box 44211 Milwaukee WI 53214 414-297-9328

West Virginia

The Valley Girls P.O.Box 181 Dunbar WV 25064-0181 lucas5437@newwave.net

We're continually trying to keep our database of support groups up to date. It's a never ending process. If you are familiar with any of the organizations listed and you see an error, omission, or a correction needed, please let us know asap. This list is shared by several organizations, both off and on line, so accuracy is important.

You can snail-mail info to CDS, PO Box 61263, King of Prussia, PA 19406 or email the data to: <grplst@cdspub.com>

We appreciate your help & support.

Canadian Support Groups

Alberta

Phi Sigma#, PO Box 81115, 755 Lake Bonavista Dr SE, Calgary, T2J 7C9.

Illusions Club (peer support & info), PO Box 2000, Calgary, T2C 1B4. Phone: +1 (403) 236-7072.

Illusions Club II (peer support & info), Box 33002, Edmonton T5P-4V8

Serenity, Box 81115, 755 Lake Bonavista Dr SE, Calgary, Alberta T2J 7C9 Canada

British Columbia

Combury Society, PO Box 3745, Vancouver, V6B 3Z1, Phone: 604-415-2767.

Foundation for the Advancement of Trans-Gendered People's Society (FATE) 1-1727 William Street, Vancouver, V5L 2R5. Phone: +1 (604) 254-9591.

Zenith Foundation, 8415 Granville Street, PO Box 46, =Vancouver, V6P 4Z9.

Ontario

Gender Metaphor, 829 Northwest Road, Suite 715, Kingston, Ontario K7P-2N3. Contact by email only at this time genmet@adan.kingston.net.

Gender Mosaic, PO Box 7421, Ottawa, K1L 8E4. Phone: +1 (819) 770-1945 or email to: gender_mosaic@canadamail.com.

Street Outreach Services, SOS, 519 Church St, Toronto, Ontario M4Y 2C9

Xpressions, P.O. Box 223, Station A, Toronto, M5W 1B2, Voice mail: +1 (416) 812-6879.

Quebec

Club MET, 4113 Dorion St., Montreal, H2K 3B8. Phone: +1 (514) 528-8874

FACT - Quebec, PO Box 293, 5858 Cote-de-Neiges Boulevard, Montreal, H3S 2S6.

TransPORRS (Post Op Recovery Residence), 475 Blvd Gouin Ouest, Montreal, H3L 1K4.

THE COMMUNITY CALENDAR

August 1999

17-22, Harry Benjamin Intl. Gender Dysphoria Association, Inc., London, England. Contact: Bean Robinson, 1300 South 2nd St., Ste. 180, Minneapolis, Mn 55454. Phone: 612-625-1500 (Receptionist), 612-624-8078 (Voice Mail), 612-626-8311 FAX, or email robin009@gold.tc.umn.edu.

6 - 9, Queer Activism for a New Millennium: Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay, and Transgender Politics in California. Presented by: The Center for Sex Research and LesBiGayTrs (The Institute for Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay, and Transgender Studies) at California State University, Airtel Plaza Hotel Van Nuys, California.

September 1999

21 - 26, Southern Comfort Conference 1999 at the Sheraton Buckhead Hotel, Atlanta and Sheraton Four Points Buckhead (same hotels, new name for the Terrace Garden). Write: P.O. Box 77591, Atlanta, GA 30357-1591 Call: (404) 633-6470 E-mail: info@sccatl.org Or visit our web site: <http://www.sccatl.org>

November 1999

4 - 7, Paradise In The Poconos, an extended weekend for CDs in the Pocono mountains with parties, programs and lots of fun. Contact CDS, PO Box 61263, King of Prussia, PA 19406, or call 610-640-9449, or visit www.cdspub.com/poco.html

March 2000

22 - 26, Transgender 2000, the 14th annual IFGE convention at the Hilton Crystal City, Arlington, VA. For info contact Cioe Enterprises, PO Box 61, Easton, PA 18044-0061, 610-759-1761.

May 2000

4 - 7, Fourth International Congress on Sex & Gender, in Philadelphia, Pa., at the Warwick Hotel, sponsored by the Renaissance Transgender Assoc., Inc. Call Renaissance at 610-975-9119 for registration details or visit their web site at www.ren.org. Call the Warwick at 800-523-4210, 215-735-6000 or fax to 215-790-7766 for reservations.

2001

TBA, Fifth International Congress on Sex & Gender in Australia. Details to be announced.

2002

TBA, Sixth International Congress on Sex & gender in Exter, England. Details to be announced.

If you have information about an event that you'd like us to post here and online, please write to us at the CDS office or send email to us at: info@cdspub.com

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Paradise In The Poconos 98

Just a few of the kids you'll meet at this year's event. See the ad on page 43



▲ Michelle Lee & Caressa Michaels beam after winning the Princess of the Poconos.

Semifinalists Joanne, Amanda G, Amanda R & Amy at the costume party. ▼



◀ Oh, Miss Betty, who did your makeup?



▲ Donna performing as Patsy Cline



▲ Randy, our DJ



▲ Cena does a song Sat.nite



▼ Rebecca Finn



▲ Denise Mason measures for the Big Hair Contest



AlisonCD@aol.com ▲



Jody, NY ▲

Mirror Mirror

Sherry Renee
kittykatx9@aol.com ▼



JoAnn, Miss. joannc413@aol.com ▲



Denise MacCauley ▲

▼ Rachael Barr
rachbartv77@hotmail.com



Tamara, Orange, Calif. ▲

Cindy, Wash. ▼



Michelle Jenkins ▲
New Zealand

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▲ Allison Word, PO Box 21963, Beaumont TX 77720

▶ Tammy Schroeder,
13626 E Bates Ave,
№301, Aurora CO
80014



Alison Young, PO Box 764,
Ayer MA 01432 ▼



▲ Leighanne Stokes, 601 Brown Trail,
№321, Hurst TX 76053

Lisa Ashley, PO Box 14701,
Toledo OH 43614 ▼



▲ Charlotte Davis, Savannah, Ga.



Who
is it ?

▶ See pg
47 for
contest



▼ Monique, 6185 S Pecos №136, Las Vegas NV 89120



Mirror Mirror



▲ Lois Boyd, 9006 Hwy 76S, Stabton TN 38069



◀ Daphne Thomas, PO Box 5679, Dearborn MI 48128



▶ Cena Williams, NY FWD2710

Angela, Mich. FWD3348 ▼



Jill, Kansas ▼



Molly, Wis. ▲

Rachael, NY ▼



Jane, NW Fla. ▲

Barbara Roberts, Ill. ▼



On My Mind...



TG Activists Beware!
The Federal Court in Indiana just handed down a decision that gives me permission to wear a dress in public. That's right!

In a case involving a young mtf transsexual in transition who wanted to go to the senior prom in a gown, the court ruled in

favor of the student saying the school had no right to prohibit "him" from wearing a dress to the prom since that was a right protected by the First Amendment of the Constitution, i.e., Freedom of Expression. Yes, yes! I knew it all along. It's the "fashion argument" made law.

However, the decision might actually be a set back for tg-politics. Based on the above decision, you can dress as you choose in public since it's your choice of expression. Anybody who messes with you while "en femme" is violating your Civil Rights and you'll be able to sue them in a federal court. You've got the First Amendment on your side. However, you will probably have to identify as a crossdresser/transvestite to use this argument. Identifying yourself as "transgendered" or "transsexual" will not cut it; especially since the U. S. Supreme Court ruled long ago that "transsexual" is not a protected class entitled to protection from sexual discrimination and "transgendered" isn't even a term recognized by most courts.

This makes for a political split in the community. Once again, the white, upper-class, privileged male crossdresser has the upper hand. As long as I'm willing to reveal that I am a crossdresser, I may have access to the court for redress. Meanwhile, the transsexuals and transgenderists are struggling to get included in Hate Crimes Bills and Employment Non-Discrimination Acts and have virtually no redress through the courts.

In my considered opinion, this is where the political activists have dropped the ball — unifying the community around political goals. Instead, they're pursuing their own person political goals and infighting as usual. For example, in a piece I wrote for TGForum I said Jessica Xavier was the "executive director" of It's Time America!. Actually, she's the "national director" which

she pointed out in a very whiny, pissy email to me, stating that "executive director" had "male privilege" written all over it. Ms. Xavier calls this "transfeminism." I call it being a pain-in-the-ass. She should have been happy to get the press at all, and it was positive, too. Jeez, some days a TV can't do nuthin' right.

As long as the activists like Ms. Xavier treat the transvestite/crossdresser segment of our community like plague carriers, we're going to have this political split. And that federal judge in Indiana just gave the TV/CD members even more reason to let the TG/TS members go their own way. The mainstay of the TV/CD segment is the convention. We've got one almost every month now. The biggest is Southern Comfort with the Be All not far behind. We're talking hundreds of people attending. Hell, I get nearly 200 at my Pocono event. My point is — the court just guaranteed my right to appear at one of these events in drag. Now, with all these conventions and the "protected" right to dress as they choose, what does a TV/CD need with a Hate Crimes Bill or an ENDA? Nuthin'. That's what.

Now, you might think that I advocate that TV/CDs shouldn't support the TG/TSs in their political quest. You'd be wrong. The TG/TS segment alone doesn't have the financial clout to be a political force. Only together as TV/CD/TG/TS/whatever can we ever hope to have the kind on influence the G/L/B community has.

One of the reasons I am so pissed off at the GPAC people is that they had the unifying force in their hands at the first TG Lobby Days and threw it away on personal agenda crap. It took several years to bring those people together and it took less than a month to pull them all apart. It ain't ever been the same since.

I keep looking for signs of another unifying force gathering on the horizon, but I don't see any. There is a vacuum of leadership in our community. There is no one who we can point to and say, "We all respect that person. S/he can speak for us." That's really quite sad.

.....
Before I forget, let's have a little contest. Go look at that gorgeous butt on the lower right corner of page 44. If you know who that is, you'll win your choice of any two CDS videos. Hint: she's a real favorite and has been seen in this magazine many times. The rules are simple: (1) only snail-mail entries are valid, and (2) the earliest postmark with the correct answer wins.

JoAnn Roberts

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